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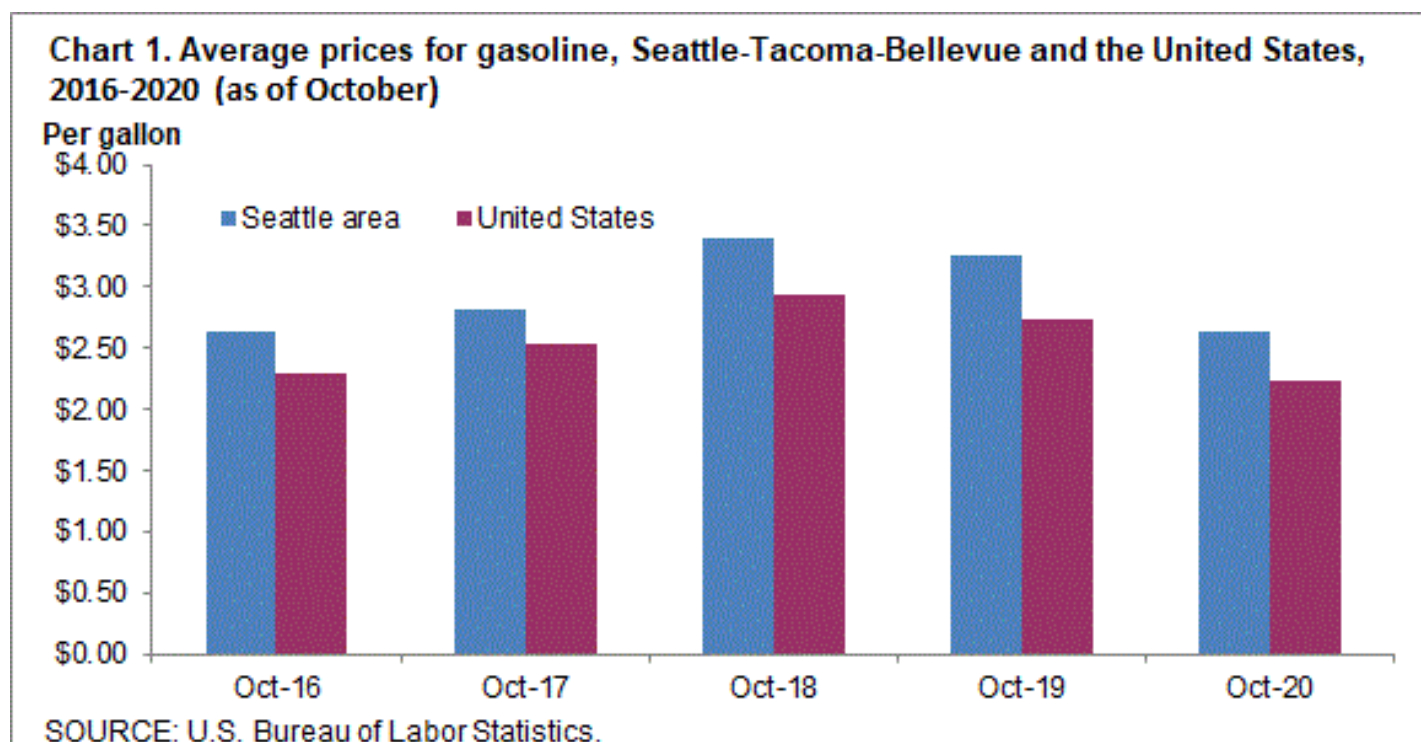
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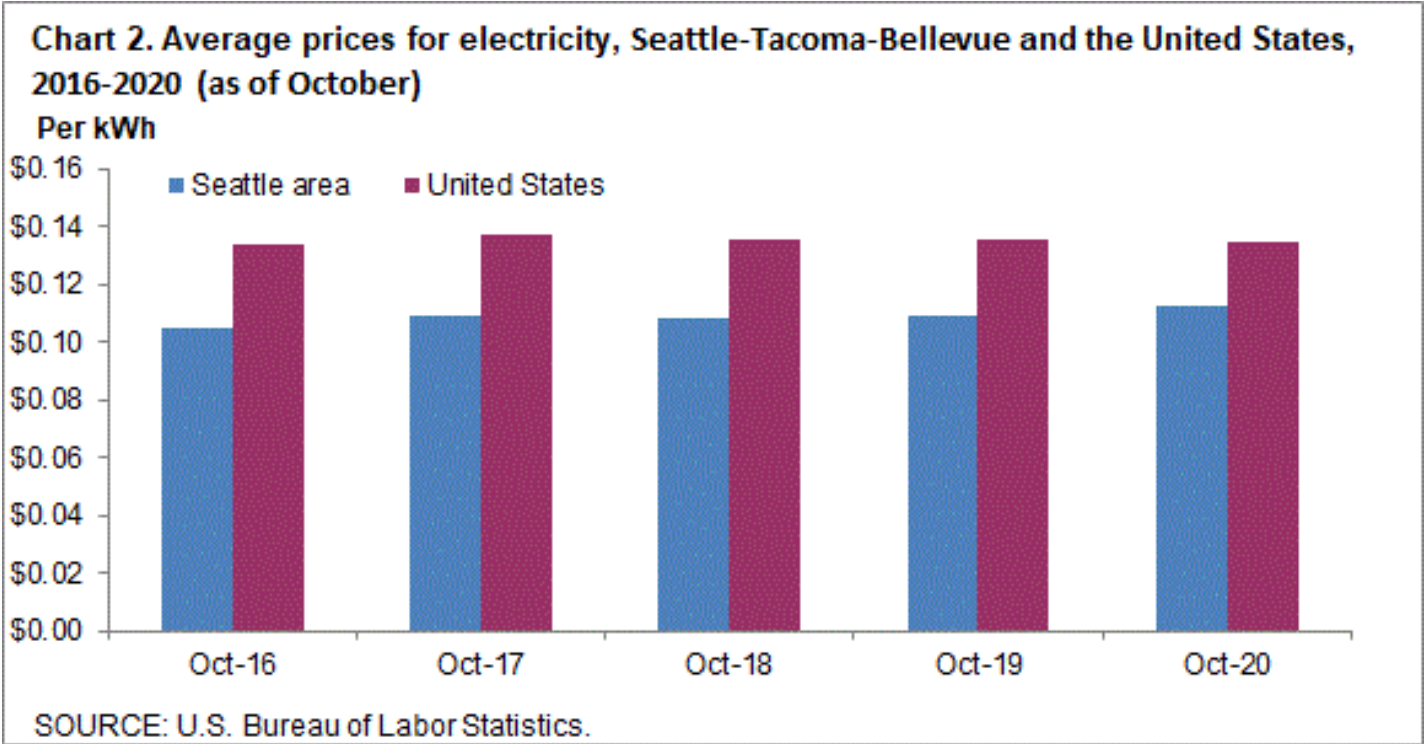
Average Energy Prices, Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue – October 2020

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.627 a gallon in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue area in October 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that area gasoline prices were lower than last October when they averaged \$3.255 per gallon. Seattle area households paid an average of 11.3 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in October 2020, higher than the 10.9 cents per kWh paid in October 2019. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at \$1.092 per therm in October was more than the \$1.000 per therm spent last year. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

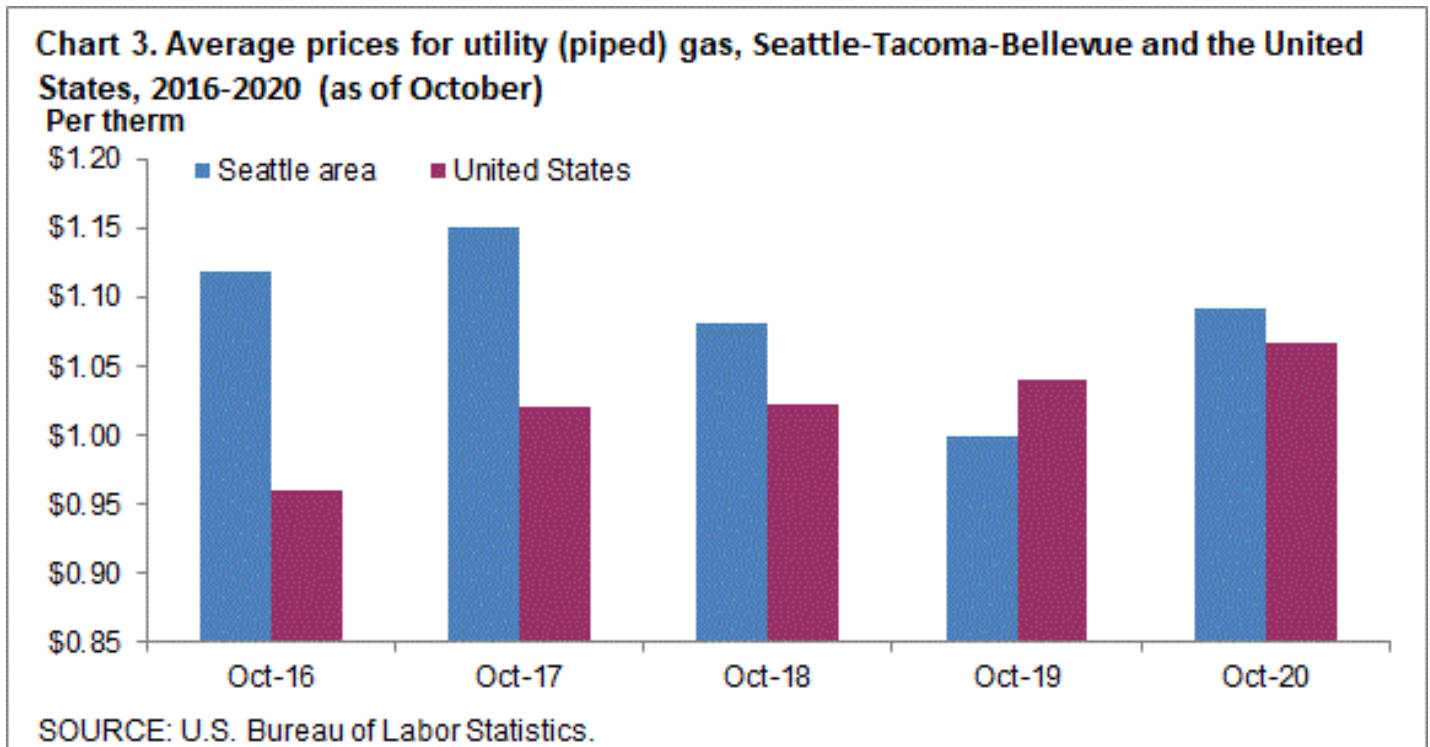
At \$2.627 a gallon, Seattle area consumers paid 17.9 percent more than the \$2.228 national average in October 2020. A year earlier, consumers in the Seattle area paid 18.8 percent more than the national average for a gallon of gasoline. The local price of a gallon of gasoline has been within 18.8 percent of the national average in the month of October during the past five years. (See [chart 1.](#))



The 11.3 cents per kWh Seattle households paid for electricity in October 2020 was 16.3 percent less than the nationwide average of 13.5 cents per kWh. Last October, electricity costs were 19.9 percent lower in Seattle compared to the nation. In each of the past five years during the month of October, prices paid by Seattle area consumers for electricity were less than the U.S. average by at least 16.3 percent. (See [chart 2.](#))



Prices paid by Seattle area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were \$1.092 per therm, 2.3 percent more than the national average in October 2020 (\$1.067 per therm). A year earlier, area consumers paid 3.9 percent less per therm for natural gas compared to the nation. In the past five years, the per therm cost for natural gas in October in the Seattle area has varied between 3.9 percent below and 16.4 percent above the U.S. average. (See [chart 3.](#))



The Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, Wash. metropolitan area consists of King, Snohomish, and Pierce Counties of Washington.

Technical Note

Average prices are estimated from Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for selected commodity series to support the research and analytic needs of CPI data users. Average prices for electricity, utility (piped) gas, and gasoline are published monthly for the U.S. city average, the 4 regions, 9 divisions, 2 population size classes, 8 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 23 largest local index areas. For electricity, average prices per kilowatt-hour (kWh) are published. For utility (piped) gas, average prices per therm, are published. For gasoline, the average price per gallon is published. Average prices for commonly available grades of gasoline are published as well as the average price across all grades.

All eligible prices are converted to a price per normalized quantity. These prices are then used to estimate a price for a defined fixed quantity. The average price per kilowatt-hour represents the total bill divided by the kilowatt-hour usage. The total bill is the sum of all items applicable to all consumers appearing on an electricity bill including, but not limited to, variable rates per kWh, fixed costs, taxes, surcharges, and credits. This calculation also applies to the average price per therm for utility (piped) gas.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 800-877-8339.

Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue and the United States, October 2019-October 2020, not seasonally adjusted

| Year and month | Gasoline per gallon | | Electricity per kWh | | Utility (piped) gas per therm | |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| | Seattle area | United States | Seattle area | United States | Seattle area | United States |
| 2019 | | | | | | |
| October..... | \$3.255 | \$2.741 | \$0.109 | \$0.136 | \$1.000 | \$1.041 |
| November..... | 3.284 | 2.687 | 0.109 | 0.133 | 1.008 | 1.058 |
| December..... | 3.079 | 2.652 | 0.109 | 0.133 | 1.137 | 1.057 |
| 2020 | | | | | | |
| January..... | 2.964 | 2.631 | 0.111 | 0.134 | 1.137 | 1.066 |
| February..... | 2.956 | 2.530 | 0.111 | 0.134 | 1.137 | 1.050 |
| March..... | 2.950 | 2.334 | 0.111 | 0.134 | 1.139 | 1.034 |
| April..... | 2.465 | 1.946 | 0.113 | 0.133 | 1.139 | 1.028 |
| May..... | 2.374 | 1.946 | 0.114 | 0.134 | 1.090 | 1.037 |
| June..... | 2.462 | 2.141 | 0.114 | 0.137 | 1.090 | 1.037 |
| July..... | 2.621 | 2.243 | 0.114 | 0.137 | 1.090 | 1.027 |
| August..... | 2.667 | 2.245 | 0.114 | 0.137 | 1.090 | 1.031 |
| September..... | 2.689 | 2.260 | 0.114 | 0.137 | 1.089 | 1.064 |
| October..... | 2.627 | 2.228 | 0.113 | 0.135 | 1.092 | 1.067 |